

WILLIAM SAMUEL BETHERS
AND PHEBE HANNAH
McMILLAN
(1862-1874 Heber Pioneer)



William Samuel Bethers was born to Zadock Stergeous and Sarah Collins Bethers on May 18, 1843, in Quincy, Adams County, Illinois. The family was acquainted with Joseph Smith.

When three years of age, he with his parents and family were with the 50 wagon train of Captain Joseph Outhouse in 1852, on their way to Utah. They settled in Provo on September 22, 1852. The mother and children were ill with measles while crossing the plains.

After developing a small farm at Provo, the father returned to Council Bluffs, leaving the mother and boys to care for the farm and endure pioneer hardships and the grasshopper plague. Later he returned and took his wife and sons back to Iowa.

When men were being recruited for the Civil War, Billie Bethers took volunteers to St. Joseph, Missouri, but Billie didn't enlist. He returned to Utah with his brother Mahlon, who went on to Nevada, while Billie came to Heber to live with his sister, Nancy Smith, and her husband, Ephraim Smith.

Billie served in the Indian wars and was a Blackhawk war veteran.

DANIEL BIOGRAPHIES

As a young man, he freighted East with supplies, first with ox teams, then horses, bringing immigrants West. On one of these trips he saw a young girl, Phebe Hannah McMillan, camped with her family near Ft. Bridger. She was the oldest child of Daniel and Janett Davis McMillan and was born at Liverpool, England. Her parents were staunch Catholics until hearing the LDS gospel. Phebe and her sister, Mary Ellen, had come with their parents, in 1863, in the old packet ship "Cynosure," with the 125th company, organized by George Q. Cannon. After six long weeks of rough voyage, they arrived at New York City on October 4, 1863. Phebe walked all but one-half day of the distance to Utah.

At Ft. Bridger, too, she noticed Billie Bethers and both seemed to know they were meant for each other. They didn't become well acquainted till quite awhile later. Phebe became his wife on September 14, 1866.

They lived at Wanship and Heber while Billie worked on the railroad coming into Utah. In the spring of 1874, Billie took up a homestead near the mouth of Daniel Canyon and together they developed a fine farm, building three homes—first, a dirt-roof cabin, then a frame home, and finally a two-story brick home. He worked with Hiram Oaks in surveying a canal to bring water from Strawberry Valley to the farms of the settlers along Daniel Creek.

One winter he, with John Jordan and John Bethers, rescued a group of 25 people from the East, who were trying to cross Strawberry Valley in the deep winter snows and bitter cold. He and other families on the creek took care of these people until their wagons could be brought out in the spring and they could be on their way.

Billie purchased a grain binder, a horse power and then a steam-power thresher, with which he and his sons did much custom work.

He was supervisor of the Daniel Canyon road sixteen years, when all such work was done with picks, shovels, teams, scrapers and wagons. He served as trustee and treasurer of the school board in the early history of Daniel, and on the jury when the county seat was in Provo.

He was second counselor to Bishop P. H. McGuire when the Daniel and Buysville

Wards were combined. He always was a faithful worker in Church organizations. He died October 7, 1926, at the age of 83.

Phebe always worked in the Church auxiliaries in Liverpool and in Utah. She was a kindly and generous person and taught her children to always be honorable and true to their faith. He had the gift of healing.

They were the parents of 14 children. Their second child, a boy, died when a year old. Another baby boy lived only one day.

Wm S Bethers
Homestead
certif -
p822 ABUM
1st white man
Settled in
Daniel 1858
1st Log Home
ABUM 822-824-5-
828-834-858-9
"Uncle Billie
Daniel's started
1874

population as small as that possessed by each of the wards it was impossible to keep the organizations in a healthy condition, hence proper work could not be done. Elder Clawson also urged the members of the two wards to be guided in all things by the spirit of the Lord and seek to sustain whatever the authorities recommended to them.

Following Elder Clawson's opening remarks, President Smart said that the stake presidency had been concerned about the well being of the two wards in the stake. He said they had been impressed to merge the two wards, as this would result in great good.

President Smart said the stake presidency had counseled with the General Authorities on the matter and had received approval to merge the wards. He concluded by commending the bishops of the two wards for their faithfulness.

Elder Smith of the Council of the Twelve spoke next and said that the General Authorities and stake officials had only one purpose on the earth and that was to cultivate and build up the work of the Lord.

Under present conditions, he said, the amalgamation of the wards would give more strength to the organization and enable the people to accomplish a great deal more of the Lord's work. He further said that the stake and ward authorities are held responsible for the charge placed upon them and one's personal interest must be secondary in the work of the Lord.

Elder Smith reminded the saints that there would be opposition in this move, because opposing forces were always present. No movement can be started by the authorities of the Church, or even by the Lord Himself, without some resulting opposition, he continued. However, he urged the people to rely upon their chosen authorities and to try and find the good qualities in their brothers and sisters of the Gospel.

Following Elder Smith's remarks the merger was put to a vote and it was unanimously decided to join the Buysville and Daniel wards. Bishop Charles J. Wahlquist and his counselors, William Thacker and Charles P. Carlen and clerk John H. Carlen of Buysville Ward were released with a vote of thanks for their faithful labors, as were Bishop McGuire, his counselors, George A. Clift and William S. Bethers, and clerk Mark Orgill.

Bishop McGuire was then sustained as bishop of the new combined ward with William C. Bell as his first counselor and Joseph C. McDonald as second counselor. Selection of a name for the ward was left until a later meeting.

After the members of the new bishopric had expressed their willingness to accept the positions to which they had been called, Elder Clawson set apart Bishop McGuire. Elder Bell was then set apart and Elder McDonald was ordained a high priest and set apart as the second counselor.

Concluding speaker was Elder Clawson, who spoke frankly and firmly about the responsibilities placed upon the new bishopric.

"They are not of themselves qualified to work in the positions given them and never can be, except the Lord comes to their rescue," Elder Clawson said. "This the Lord will do if they are faithful."

He emphasized that all the persons residing in the boundaries of the new ward had been committed into the keeping of the new bishopric. "There is nothing that can arise in the ward either of a spiritual or a temporal nature but that should be of interest to the bishopric," he said. "They should be the first to detect error and should always be on hand to give advice and counsel."

"The calling of a bishop is not necessarily to be a great preacher," he continued. "It is an executive calling the same as the counselors. Those who are blessed with the gift of speaking, however, should be wise in using it. As the father of his ward the bishop always has a right to speak at meetings, and wisdom should direct his utterances. He should be to the point, be open and frank with the saints," Elder Clawson said.

He praised the members of the ward for their steadfastness in the gospel and explained the advantages they enjoyed in their rural area over those who lived in larger cities. He mentioned particularly the moral restraint that characterized smaller communities and concluded by saying that education in the Gospel is worth a great deal more to children than all the wealth of the world that could be offered.

The ward historical record said of the meeting that "The proceedings were characterized by a feeling of unity and good will and it is confident that good will result from the action taken."

When the wards were merged no action was taken to give an official name to the new unit. It wasn't until June 4, 1903, that a name was proposed and approved by the ward members.

The name was suggested during a social and reception being held in honor of the officers of the two former wards. The reception was held in the Buysville School and was under the direction of President Smart and his counselor, James C. Jensen.

After a welcome by Bishop McGuire there followed a short program of songs, readings and speeches. Bishop Wahlquist gave a history of the efforts to organize a ward on Daniels Creek and then told how Daniel Branch had been formed as part of Center Ward and Buysville Branch as part of the Charleston Ward. He then explained how they became wards and finally were united in the new ward.

Stake Clerk Joseph W. Musser is reported to have spoken in a happy, pleasant mood and to have said that he could see the foundation of a strong, prosperous organization.

President Jensen was reported as pleased with the response of the people in honor of their former officials, and spoke of the bright prospects before the ward.